

blishment of Officers, attended with the Expence of 7600*l.* per Annum, is necessary.—Upon these Premises, the Uneasiness of the Colonies, at being forced to bring more into the common Stock, appears to be unreasonable, if not rebellious; and They seem rather to deserve Reprehension and Correction, than Favour and Indulgence.

The Successes of the War were obtained as well by the vigorous Efforts of the Colonies, as by the Exertion of *Great-Britain*—The Faith of *Great-Britain* hath been engaged in the most solemn Manner, to re-pay the Colonies the Monies levied by internal Taxations for the Support of the War.—Is it consistent with that Faith to tax Them towards sinking the Debt in Part incurred by that Re-payment? The immense Accession of Territory, and Value of the Acquisitions obtained by the Peace, is the Consequence of the Successes of the War—The Charge of the War is lessened by the Advantages resulting from the Peace—The Colonies, for a long Course of Time, have largely contributed to the public Revenue, and put *Great-Britain* to little or no Expence for their Protection.—If it were equitable to draw from Them a further Contribution, it does not therefore follow, that it is proper to force it from Them, by the harsh and rigorous Methods established by the Stamp-Act; an Act unequal and disproportioned to *their* Circumstances whom it affects; exempting Opulence, crushing Indigence; and tearing from a numerous, loyal, and useful People, the Privileges They had, in their Opinion, earned and merited, and justly held most dear. If They are really in Debt, the Payment of it hath not been refused, it hath not been demanded.—If one Subject, grown giddy with sudden Elevation, should, at any future Period, rashly declare, that the Colonies should be taxed, at all Events, in the most rigorous Manner; and that Millions of industrious and useful Subjects should be grievously oppressed, rather than himself depart from his Character of Pertinacity and Wilfulness, check the Impulse of a tyrannical Disposition, or foregoe the Gratification of his Vanity, in a wanton Display of Power, Submission would be an admirable Virtue indeed, if not the Effect of Impotence.

That the Contribution arising from the *Stamp-Duties* is disproportioned to *their* Circumstances from whom it is exacted, is manifest; for They will produce in each Colony, a greater, or less Sum, not in Proportion to its Wealth, but to the Multiplicity of Juridical Forms, the Quantity of vacant Land, the Frequency of transferring landed Property, the Extent of Paper Negotiations, the Scarcity of Money, and the Number of Debtors. A larger Sum will be exacted from a Tobacco-Colony than from *Jamaica*; and it will not only be higher in one of the poorest Colonies, and the least able  
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